

**Amendments to the claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus Apparatus (1) for converting a flow of matter (4) containing hydrocarbons to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), comprising:

with a heating apparatus (5) for production of a heating stream (6); [[,]]

~~whereby the flow of matter (4) is converted in a first converter (2) as well as and in a second converter (3) arranged behind said first converter in a flow direction to a hydrogen-rich fluid flow (10), wherein the flow of matter (4) is converted in the first converter and second converter; and~~

~~a first heating element (8) that is flowed-through by a the heating stream is provided for heating at least one of the first and second converters (2, 3), characterized in that wherein in at least one operating phase, the heating stream (6) for the second converter (3) flows completely in a counterflow direction to the flow of educt matter (4); and~~

an outlet opening, wherein the heating stream (6) is separated into two flue gas partial flows, wherein one of the flue gas partial flows is provided with a flap for closing the outlet opening.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein at least in one operating phase, the heating stream (6) for the first and second converters (2, 3) flows completely in a counterflow direction to the flow of educt matter (4).

3. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein at least one second heating element (9) that is flowed-through by the heating stream (6) is provided for heating one of the first and second converters (2, 3) in a start phase.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, characterized in that wherein the at least one second heating element (9) is disposed between the first and second converters (2, 3).

5. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, characterized in that wherein an inlet opening (12) and/or an outlet opening (11) of the first and/or second heating element (6, 8) has at least one apportioning element for apportioning the heating stream (6).

6. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein at least one control unit is provided for controlling the apportioning element.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, characterized in that wherein the first and second converters (2, 3) and/or the first and second heating elements (8, 9) are arranged approximately coaxially to one another.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heating apparatus (5) is arranged approximately coaxially to the converters (2, 3) and/or the heating elements (8, 9).

9. (currently amended) The apparatus Apparatus (1) according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heating apparatus (5) is arranged approximately centrally to the converters (2, 3) and/or the heating elements (8, 9).

10. (currently amended) A fuel Fuel cell assembly with a fuel cell unit and an apparatus (1) for converting a hydrocarbon-containing flow of matter (4) to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), whereby the flow of matter (4) is converted in a first converter (2), ~~as well as~~ and in a second converter (3) arranged behind the first converter (2) in a flow direction, to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow (10), and wherein a heating apparatus (5) is provided for production of a heating stream (6) as well as a first[[,]] heating element (8) that is flowed-through by the heating stream (6) for heating at least one of the first and second converters (2, 3), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus (1) is formed according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended) A motor vehicle with a fuel cell assembly, characterized in that wherein the fuel cell assembly is formed according to claim 10.